of viewers of the country is protected and that the broadcast rights are not cornered on an exclusive basis.

(c) Doordarshan could not telecast live, the World Cup Football (FIFA) 2002.

(d) and (e) The Communication Convergence Bill 2001 introduced in Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001 has a provision that national or international events of general public interest, notified by Government in advance, shall have to be carried on the network of public service broadcaster as well. The Communication Commission shall, however, determine well in advance of such events, the principles and terms for access to the network of public service broadcaster.

News-items on Indian Media

2731. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Are we reporting or settling an old colonial account "which appeared in the "Pioneer" dated the 5th July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether in the report, French journalist's open letter against foreign media's anti-India bias has been examined by Government;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on this issue; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) to (d) The press in India not only enjoys the freedom guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution of India but it is also very diverse with a whole range of differing opinions expressed by various journalists being a significant feature of our vibrant and democratic polity.

On its part, the Government does not endeavour to proactively interact with the media in order to share information and with the objective of projecting a positive and well informed image of the country and also to counter disinformation and propaganda by forces inimical to the country, as well as to correct misperceptions.